

EPA Brings People the Power of Information



EPA Pacific Southwest Region Web site, www.epa.gov/region09

In the past year, EPA's Pacific Southwest Office has stepped up public access to environmental information. The regional Web site, www.epa.gov/region09, has been expanded to include breaking environmental stories and features that highlight regional EPA announcements and initiatives. In the year 2000, the site received more than 3 million page requests. EPA's Pacific Southwest Office also maintains satellite offices in San Diego and Honolulu to make it easier for local communities to work with EPA staff in the U.S.-Mexico border area, Hawaii, and the Pacific Islands.

Anyone can now e-mail inquiries to EPA's regional Public Information Center at the following address: r9.info@epa.gov. People can also call (415) 744-1500

between 8 a.m. and 12 noon, and 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. weekdays to talk directly with EPA staff. This number will soon be supplemented by a toll-free number, which will be posted on the Web site, www.epa.gov/region09 as soon as it becomes available.

Nationally, the EPA makes a vast array of environmental information accessible on-line through its main Web portal at www.epa.gov. One of the best resources on EPA's site for obtaining local environmental information is Envirofacts, at www.epa.gov/enviro. There, one can search a number of EPA databases, including the Toxics Release Inventory (TRI), which allows people to learn which toxic substances are used and released by facilities in their communities. For help in interpreting this data in the Pacific Southwest Region, visit our Web site at www.epa.gov/region09/toxic/tri or call the TRI Program at (415) 744-1093.

In addition, EPA's Environmental Monitoring for Public Access and Community Tracking (EMPACT) program has begun providing real-time information on local air pollution levels, including projections for the day ahead, at www.epa.gov/airnow.

To learn more about rivers, streams, and other waterways in your vicinity, visit EPA's national Surf Your Watershed home page, at www.epa.gov/surf. There, local information is accessible through a clickable, state-by-state map of watersheds, or by entering your zip code, county, or metropolitan area. To get involved with other people working to protect your local waterways, check the on-line catalog of watershed groups, at www.epa.gov/adopt/network.html. If you're already involved, and want to publicize your group or events, you can add this or other information to EPA's catalog, at www.epa.gov/watershed/add.